

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Action mailed April 27, 2005. Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 26, 27 and 32 have been amended and claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 24, 25 and 32 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added to the subject application as a result of the changes made thereto.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with thanks. Accordingly, Applicants' invention of independent claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of the allowable subject matter of claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 25 and 26, as noted at pages 5 and 6 of the Final Action. Claim 27 has been similarly amended. Thus, no specific discussion of the Examiner's art rejection is believed necessary.

However, and for the record, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims based on the Quigly et al. reference. Although the Applicants are electing to pursue the subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, nothing in this amendment should be read as acquiescence by Applicants to the Examiner's art rejections. Applicants may elect to pursue claims of a similar scope as found in the independent claims (before this amendment) in further continuation applications. In any event, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment is being made to expedite issuance of a patent, and is not being made for reasons of patentability since Applicants believe that the claims presented before amendment define over the art of record. Thus, none of the claim amendments presented herein should have estoppel effects as promulgated by Festo and its progeny.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

4-27-05

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 27 day of June, 2005.

Chris Hammond

Name

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Signature